**DRAFT MINUTES**

32nd LD Democrats Monthly Meeting

September 6, 2023, 6:30pm

[Facebook LIVE Zoom Video](https://www.facebook.com/32democrats.org/videos/827438875580968)

*~ Thanks Rosamaria Graziani for your live English-Spanish translation
of this meeting. ~*

**• 6:30pm WELCOME Chris Roberts, Chair** (video at 0:00)

Welcome on this first day of school for so many in the 32nd LD. And, thanks to all of our school board members and teachers who are making this a great school year.

• Land Acknowledgement/Flag Salute
• [Minutes](https://32democrats.org/2023-minutes/), August 2, 2023: Approved

**• Chair’s Report** (2:56-5:01)

Chris Roberts: At our last executive board meeting, the e-board passed a [resolution](https://32democrats.org/resolutions-passed/?orderby=publish_date&order=desc) on Trees in Shoreline. Janet Way, PCO submitted this resolution. The e-board decided it was an emergency resolution, adopted it and sent it to the Shoreline City County Council. Also, we are having our 32nd LD family friendly picnic on Saturday at Edmonds City Park, 11:30-2pm, and we hope everyone will join us. The weather is going to be great and there is a splash pool for kids at this park!

**• King County Council Member Rod Dembowski** (5:11-48:14)

**Rod Dembowski**: I represent the 1st District: North Seattle, all of Shoreline, Bothell and North Kirkland. I chair the Transportation, Environment and Economy Committee and serve on the Law & Justice and Budget and Fiscal Management Committees. A few highlights just to start: There are park levy funds to upgrade public swimming pools which is an equity issue as there has been a trend toward privatizing pools. Also, there are park levy funds for active parks and open space and we have an investment of over $800,000 in Brugger’s Bog Park in Shoreline near Ballinger Way. Contact: roddemboski@kingcounty.gov

**• Recognizing Elected Officials & Candidates** (48:31-49:21) **Chris Roberts:** I want to welcome elected officials and candidates attending tonight’s meeting: Rep. Lauren Davis; Edmonds School Board Member Carin Chase; Shoreline City Council Member Doris McConnell; endorsed candidate for Shoreline City Council, Annette Ademasu; endorsed candidate for Lynnwood City Council, David Parshall; and endorsed candidate for Snohomish County Superior Court, Mary Anderson.

**• Kaiser Negotiations: Chris Lampkin, Political Director, SEIU Healthcare 1199NW** (49:25-59:55)

**Atalanta Pierre Louis, a lead organizer at Kaiser:** I have been a Kaiser and Group Health nurse for 17 years. I’ve stayed for so long because I love to be able to care for the community that I work in and I love and respect my co-workers. When Kaiser came in 5 years ago, they made lots of promises about making things better and they promised to invest a billion dollars in our community. This has not materialized. It has resulted in our not being able to keep up and we are losing staff in droves. We are here today to ask for your support, as community members and possible patients, to sign on to this [petition](https://ourkaiserwa.org/) with us.

**Chris Lampkin:** Kaiser is incredibly profitable. They just bought a $4.5 billion system. So, they are acting more like private equity than like a healthcare company. We are really excited about the wave of workers standing up for better healthcare across the country.

**• Resolution** (1:00:34-)

**A** [**Resolution**](https://32democrats.org/resolutions-passed/?orderby=publish_date&order=desc) **to Support the People of Ukraine in their Defense Against Russian Genocide and Colonialism, submitted by Carl Larson, Ukraine Defense Support, PCO**

**• Discussion in favor of resolution**

**Carl Larson:** I’m a PCO, redistricted from the 1st LD and have worked hard to make sure Trump was a one term President. In my mind there is a real connection between Trumpism and Putinism. I think they are two sides of the same coin. And, I feel Trump would be Putin if he could. To introduce myself, I am an army veteran and served in Iraq 20 years ago and I also served in Ukraine last year for 6 months. I was a platoon commander, deputy intel chief and logistics director. I strongly believe that Putin and his war in Ukraine and his war against western democracy, poses an enormous threat to us. Anybody who followed the 2016 election knows the role that Putin played in helping to sway that election. Upon returning home last year, I started an organization called [Ukraine Defense Support](https://ukrainedefensesupport.org/chapters/seattle/). We want to help defenders protect Ukraine against Russian invasion. It is a lengthy resolution and we took inspiration for writing it from a bill that was introduced to the U.S. House. It supports grassroots democracy in Ukraine and sends a message to our elected officials that ordinary Americans see the importance of this struggle and sympathize with Ukraine’s fledgling democracy.

**Anatoliy Chernenko:** I am a native Ukrainian, was raised there, but have been a longtime 32-year resident of the Puget Sound area. I wanted to join this meeting and speak up about it as I am a part of the Ukraine Defense Support organization. Today, if you watched the national news, there was a short snippet about a Russian attack on a market that killed people, including kids. For me, this is a horrendous crime against humanity and against my people. Some U.S. electeds are starting to question the expense of the assistance that is being sent to Ukraine. As a graduate of the UW Jackson School, I would like to bring up the 1994 Budapest Referendum when Russia, UK and United States approached Ukraine and offered security guarantees in exchange for Ukraine giving up their nuclear arsenal. Ukraine did give up the weapons. Thirty years have passed and now Ukraine is being attacked by its large neighbor and the U.S. signed a document in 1994 guaranteeing their security.

**• Opposed to the resolution**

**Sally Soriano, PCO:** In my opinion, supporting the Ukrainian people cannot be done by destroying a generation of its men. Continued war means the Ukrainian people will continue to suffer and die. Recently, U.S. Senator Blumenthal (D-CT) gloated, "the US is getting “its money’s worth” in Ukraine because Americans aren’t dying. War is no bargain for the American people, but it is for the weapons makers. End this war for Ukrainians and for the American people who are suffering from lack of housing, health care, and massive inequality. Send diplomats not weapons.

**• In favor of the resolution**

**Janet Way, PCO:** I believe that the Ukrainians are fighting for our democracy as well as their own. They have shown incredible spirit and courage and they deserve our support. I believe with the efforts of President Biden, NATO and all the other countries that have joined, including Japan, I think we are doing the right thing, standing up for democracy. When you hear Volodymyr Zelenskyy speak, it is very inspiring and he’s a Jew. He has captured the spirit of Ukraine and stood up to unbelievable brutality from the Russians. And, the Russians are blowing it big time. If we stand by Ukraine, eventually it can be an outcome that Americans can be proud of, as hard as it is. I come from a long record of pacifism. Many pacifists went into WWII to defend democracy and I think that is what we need to do. We need to defend Ukraine and it will be good for the world.

**• Opposed to the resolution**

**Michael Brunson, PCO:** I have not had a chance to read this resolution and I strongly support independence for Ukraine and totally oppose the Russian invasion. I also believe that cluster bombs and depleted uranium shells are a war crime. Cluster bombs were used by the U.S. against the Vietnamese people during the Vietnam War and cluster bombs were used by the Soviets against the Afghan people in 1979. And, in both cases they were strongly condemned by peace activists and human rights activists around the world. Precisely because Ukraine is such a smaller country than Russia, this war cannot go on indefinitely and there is a need for a diplomatic solution, just as during the Vietnam War. Even our own Senator Jackson, who had a reputation as a hawk, supported the demand for a cease fire in Vietnam. A cease fire now does not at all preclude a demand that Russia completely withdraw from all parts of Ukraine, including Crimea. I think we need to adopt a resolution supporting independence for Ukraine and opposition to the Russian invasion, but I am not sure we should adopt this resolution.

**• In favor of the resolution**

**Ted Hikel, PCO:** There is an old Russian saying, what’s mine is mine, what’s yours is negotiable. We are dealing with a hardline Russian who is running the country and has the last word to say of what happens. If we fail to learn from history, we will repeat it. And, I go back to the reference of Czechoslovakia in the late 1930s. Putin has taken Eastern Ukraine, Southern Ukraine, the Crimea, he has taken part of the country of Georgia, and he has made Belarus a vassal state to Russia. The question is would he stop now, would he give up any of the territories that they have claimed? He says, “no.” I’m all for negotiating, but you couldn’t negotiate with Hitler and you cannot negotiate with the Hitler of the 21st Century, and that is Vladimir Putin. It is more than just American lives that are at stake, it’s Taiwanese lives, it’s people in other parts of Eastern Europe whose lives are at stake. I think the American response has been less than full. If we want to stop Putin, we have to put the price so high for him that he will come to the negotiating table. So far, that has not happened. This is a minimum of what we can do as Americans to help support freedom in Eastern Europe. It’s threatened in Hungary, it’s threatened in Turkey. We cannot allow this to be another American walk-away from the battle. This is not our choice but is the choice of Vladimir Putin. I firmly support these young men who have come here and asked us to support Ukraine in this very simple way of saying “yes” we need to stand firm.

**Resolution passes: 75% yes; 25% no**

**• Good of the Order** (1:37:12-2:01:34)

**Next Membership Meeting — Wednesday, October 6**

**Save the Date ‑‑ 32nd Democrats Christmas Holiday Party**

**Wednesday, December 6, 5-8pm**

Lake Ballinger Center, Mountlake Terrace

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Soriano, 32nd LD Secretary

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